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Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of pending claims follows, with indicated amendments:

1. (Previously Amended) A storage area network comprising:

a high speed network interconnect;

multiple target devices coupled to the high speed network interconnect, wherein each target device has a unique hardware address;

multiple host devices, wherein each host device comprises a host bus adapter operable to perform a port login with a target device; and

a centralized unique hardware address table stored in a memory location separate from and accessible by each host bus adapter, wherein the unique hardware address table stores the unique hardware address of every target device that each respective host is authorized to access such that the host bus adapter for each respective host will not attempt to perform a port login with a target device unless the unique hardware address of that target device is present on the unique hardware address table as a target device that the respective host is authorized to access.
2. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.
3. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

4. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

5. (Previously Amended) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein at least one target device is a storage device.

6. Cancelled.

7. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the high speed network interconnect is a high speed optical network interconnect.

8. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the high speed network interconnect is a Fibre Channel fabric.

9. (Previously Amended) A method for managing a port login performed by a host bus adapter for a host that is communicatively coupled to a fabric, wherein one or more target devices, each having a unique hardware address, are coupled to the fabric; comprising the steps of:

from the host bus adapter, querying the fabric for available target devices;

receiving at the host bus adapter an identification of available target devices;

determining whether the unique hardware address of an available target device is present on a centralized unique hardware address table stored in a memory location separate from

and accessible by the host bus adapter, wherein the unique hardware address table contains the unique hardware addresses of each target device that the host is authorized to access; and

performing a port login with each target device whose unique hardware address is present on the unique hardware address table.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the target device is a storage device.

14. Cancelled.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the fabric is a Fibre Channel fabric.

16. (Previously Amended) A method for managing a port login performed by a host bus adapter for a host that is communicatively coupled to a fabric, wherein one or more target

devices, each having a unique hardware address, are coupled to the fabric; comprising the steps of:

from the host bus adapter, querying the fabric for available target devices which the host bus adapter is authorized to access;

receiving at the host bus adapter an identification of available target devices which the host bus adapter is authorized to access;

selecting target devices that may be accessed by the host from the identification of available target devices which the host bus adapter is authorized to access; and

storing the unique hardware address of the selected target devices to a centralized unique hardware address access table, wherein the host bus adapter will not perform a port login with a target device unless the unique hardware address of the target device is present on the unique hardware address table.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the target device is a storage device.

21. Cancelled.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the fabric is a Fibre Channel fabric.

23. Cancelled.

24. Cancelled.

25. Cancelled.

26. Cancelled.

27. Cancelled.

28. Cancelled.

29. (Previously Amended) A computer system comprising:

a host bus adapter operable to perform a port login;

a memory;

a centralized unique hardware address access table in memory separate from and accessible by the host bus adapter, operable to contain one or more unique hardware addresses corresponding to one or more target devices with which the host bus adapter is authorized to attempt to perform a port login.

30. (Original) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.

31. (Original) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

32. (Original) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

33. (Original) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the target device is a storage device.

34. Cancelled.